

## Birds of the Western District, Victoria.

By Dr. C. Sullivan.

In July, 1928, there appeared in the "S.A. Ornithologist" (Vol. IX, pp. 241-9) a provisional list of birds observed in the South-West of Victoria. The present notes bring the number to 175, which is almost a quarter of the 707 species to be found in Australia and Tasmania. Identification was certain in the case of all but about twelve species. These latter are included here, but mention of the fact is made in each case where absolute certainty does not exist. With regard to many of the migratory species in this list, fuller notes have already appeared in "The Emu," Vol. XXIX, pp. 39-44, and to avoid reduplication notes on those birds have been omitted here, but the names have been included to complete the list. (1) Crested Penguin (*Eudyptes cristatus*).—This interesting find at Warrnambool was reported in the "S.A. Ornithologist," Vol. IX, p. 276. (2) Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*).—Seen occasionally. (3) *Geopelia* sp.—On 20th June, 1929, three Doves were seen on the Casterton-Mount Gambier Road near Strathdownie, which is some 12 to 15 miles from the S.A. border. They rose quickly, and flew into the scrub. From the brief view I got of them, I think they were *G. cuneata*, Diamond Dove, but I am not certain. I believe Doves are rare in this corner of Victoria, as I have often inquired about them, only to be told that "there are no Doves down here." [We think that more probably the birds were *G. placida*, Peaceful Dove.—EDITORS.] (4) Banded Landrail (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*). (5) Spotted Crake (*Porzana fluminea*).—A few pleasant, but necessarily very quiet, half-hours were spent watching this species at Warrnambool. Young birds were noted also—without the prominent orange mark at the base of the upper mandible. (6) *Porzana* sp.—A smaller darker Crake was also seen at Warrnambool. It was thought to be *P. plumbea*, Spotless Crake. (7) Towards the end of 1928 the small Grebes put on their breeding plumage, and I identified both the Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*) and the Hoary-headed Grebe (*P. poliocephalus*). (8) Fairy Prion (*Pachyptila turtur*).—The heads of three Prions found at Warrnambool on 1st June, 1929, were identified by Mr. J. A. Kershaw, of the National Museum, Melbourne, as belonging to this species. (9) White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*).—Several were washed up at Warrnambool in October, 1928. (10) Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax ater*).—Seen at Portland and Warrnambool.

(11) Whiskered (Marsh) Tern (*Chlidonias leucopareia*). (12) Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochehildon nilotica*). (13) Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*).—Seen occasionally on the coast. (14) *Sterna* sp.—At Port Fairy on 14th January, 1929, I saw a single Tern about the size of a Crested Tern, but black above and white below. I believe it was a stray Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*); in fact, I cannot imagine what else it could be. [Mr. A. J. Campbell records, "The Emu," Vol. VI, p. 138, seeing a Sooty Tern on the Baudin Rocks, Guichen Bay, Robe, S.A.—a stray. The only record for S.A.—Errors.] (15) Pied Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*).—Only one pair was seen at Warrnambool. (16) Red-kneed Dotterel (*Erythrogonys cinctus*). (17) Grey Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*). (18) Oriental Dotterel (*Charadrius veredus*) (?).—A strange wader at Warrnambool was thought to belong to this species, but since the class of country frequented by this rare Dotterel is generally away from the coast, the identification is more or less doubtful. (19) White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*).—Seen only once. (20) Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*).—Seen on one occasion. (21) Eastern Curlew (*Numenius cyanopus*).—Only one was seen. (22) Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleuca*).—Identified twice at Warrnambool. (23) Curlew Sandpiper (*Erolia testacea*).—Only one was seen. (24) Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*) (?).—A doubtful record from Warrnambool. (25) White-necked Heron (*Notophox pacifica*).—Seen twice only, at Coleraine and at Strathdownie. (26) Nankeen Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*).—Seen once only. (27) Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*).—Seen twice. (28) Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*).—A rare bird here, compared with the Swamp-Harrier (*C. approximans*). Identified with certainty only on two occasions. (29) Grey Goshawk (*Astur novae-hollandiae*).—A hawk seen at Warrnambool was doubtfully classed as this species. The rare white variety was seen at Apollo Bay in the Otways. (30) Australian Goshawk (*Astur fasciatus*).—One pair at Warrnambool. (31) Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*).—A pair was seen near Warrnambool. (32) Little Eagle (*Hieraetus morphnoides*).—A rare bird in this district. Was identified only once with any degree of certainty. (33) Black (Fork-tailed) Kite (*Milvus migrans*) (?).—A strange Hawk was seen at a distance, and the only distinguishing mark was a forked tail. (34) Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).—Seen a few times, but nowhere common. (35) Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*).—*Ninox* sp. was heard calling occasionally. The head of an Owl found near Heywood was identified by Mr. J. A. Kershaw, of the National

Museum, Melbourne, as belonging to *N. boobook*. Lorikeets were often seen, but seldom identified. *Glossopsitta concinna* was doubtfully identified by its size. The Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*G. porphyrocephala*) was identified near Hamilton. (36) Gang-Gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*).—Seen only once near Warrnambool. Described to me as being near Portland in May, 1929. (37) *Neophema* sp.—The Elegant Parrot (*N. elegans*) was identified with certainty once, and with great probability on three or four other occasions. The Blue-winged Parrot (*N. chrysostoma*) was seen twice in heathy scrub country near Portland, not out in the open like *N. elegans*. The Blue-winged Parrot was seen in pairs, the Elegant in flocks of eight to thirty. (38) Budgerygah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).—Seen once only. (39) Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*).—Seen on three occasions on the nest. (40) Azure Kingfisher (*Alcyon azurea*).—Seen once only. (41) Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*).—Seen once only. (42) Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*). (43) Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*). (44) Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*).—Seen occasionally. (45) Little Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina robusta*). (46) White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*). (47) Little Thornbill (*Acanthiza nana*).—Seen at Portland once. The bird was thought to be this species, rather than the Brown Weebill (*Smicromis brevirostris*). (48) Brown Songlark (*Cinclorhampus cruralis*). (49) Rufous Songlark (*Cinclorhampus mathewsi*). (50) Little Grassbird (*Megalurus gramineus*). (51) Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*). (52) Golden-headed Fantail-Warbler (*Cisticola exilis*).—One pair seen at Warrnambool. (53) Southern Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*). (54) Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*). (55) White-browed Wood-Swallow (*Artamus superciliosus*). (56) Black-capped Sittella (*Neositta pileata*).—Seen on one occasion at Hamilton. I think they were this species, not the Orange-winged Sittella (*N. chrysoptera*). (57) Eastern Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*).—Seen a few times in scrubby country. (58) Fuscous Honeyeater (*Meliphaga fusca*).—Difficult to separate in the field from *M. ornata*, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, and *M. penicillata*, White-plumed Honeyeater. I identified it mainly on its notes, which were quite distinct from anything I had heard from the latter two species. (59) Crescent Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*).—Seen twice at Warrnambool. (60) White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhampus*). (61) Pied Currawong (*Strepera graculina*).